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**DEAD HEAT IN VIRGINIA SENATE RACE,  
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;  
VOTERS SPLIT ON OBAMA JOB APPROVAL, BUT LIKE HIM**

Virginia's U.S. Senate race of former governors is a dead heat with Democrat Tim Kaine at 43 percent and Republican George Allen at 42 percent, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today. Equally close is the 2012 presidential race, with President Barack Obama at 43 percent and an unnamed Republican challenger at 41 percent.

In what is expected to be a tightly fought Kaine-Allen Senate race, right up to the November 2012 finish, Kaine leads 85 – 5 percent among Democrats and Allen leads 83 – 8 percent among Republicans. Independent voters, often the deciding factor, go to Allen 46 – 38 percent, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll finds.

Men favor Allen 47 – 40 percent, while women back Kaine 45 – 37 percent. White voters back Allen 52 – 37 percent, as black voters back Kaine 69 – 11 percent.

“Perhaps the only surprising thing about these numbers, given the expectation of a ‘to the finish’ tussle for the Senate, is that one in 10 Virginia voters remains undecided. Those are the folks who will decide the identity of Virginia’s next U.S. senator,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. “Gov. Tim Kaine has a lock on Democrats and their core demographic groups, while Gov. George Allen is in the same shape on the other side of the aisle.

“In these kinds of races, independent voters are the key.”

The re-election trifecta for President Obama is just about dead even in Virginia:

- He gets a 48 – 48 percent approval rating;
- Voters split 47 – 47 percent on whether Obama deserves re-election;
- He gets 43 percent to 41 percent for an unnamed GOP challenger.

**-more-**

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In the trial heat against an unnamed Republican, the president carries Democrats 92 – 3 percent, but loses Republicans 86 – 4 percent and independent voters 41 – 35 percent. Men go Republican 46 – 38 percent, but in a 10-point gender gap, women back Obama 48 – 36 percent.

Like Gov. Bob McDonnell and virtually every other governor in the states where Quinnipiac University polls, voters are much higher on the president personally than they are about his policies. Three in four Virginians, 74 percent, say they like the president personally. Even Republicans agree, 56 – 28 percent.

But when voters are asked if they liked most of the president's policies, that overwhelming margin drops to a split 47 – 48 percent. On that question Republicans say no 87 – 9 percent and independent voters turn thumbs down 54 – 39 percent, while Democrats say yes 90 – 5 percent.

“President Barack Obama's great strength looking toward re-election in Virginia, as in many states, is that voters like him personally by an overwhelming margin. The Republicans must make this election about his policies if they are to prevail in 2012,” said Brown.

Asked about some of the president's policies, Virginia voters:

- Oppose 55 – 38 percent U.S. involvement in Afghanistan;
- Oppose 60 – 31 percent U.S. involvement in Libya;
- Say 49 – 42 percent that Congress should repeal the new health care law.

From June 21 – 27, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,434 registered voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.6 percentage points. Live interviewers call land lines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia and the nation as a public service and for research.

**For more data or RSS feed– <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling.xml>, call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](#).**

1. If the 2012 election for United States Senator were being held today and the candidates were - Tim Kaine the Democrat and George Allen the Republican for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Kaine	43%	8%	85%	38%	40%	45%	37%	69%	
Allen	42	83	5	46	47	37	52	11	
SMONE ELSE(VOL)	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	
WLDN'T VOTE(VOL)	2	-	1	3	2	2	2	2	
DK/NA(VOL)	11	8	9	11	8	14	8	17	
	AGE IN	YRS.....		COLL	DEGREE	WtBnAgn	POL	PHIL.....	
	18-34	35-54	55+	No	Yes	Evglcl	Lib	Mod	Con
Kaine	59%	39%	37%	38%	50%	20%	80%	48%	19%
Allen	27	48	47	45	39	65	8	35	71
SMONE ELSE(VOL)	1	2	1	2	1	3	2	2	1
WLDN'T VOTE(VOL)	3	2	2	3	1	3	1	1	3
DK/NA(VOL)	10	9	12	12	9	9	9	14	7

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mark Warner is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Approve	57%	44%	77%	55%	52%	61%	55%	69%	
Disapprove	29	42	13	32	36	22	31	17	
DK/NA	14	14	10	13	12	16	14	14	
	AGE IN	YRS.....		COLL	DEGREE	WtBnAgn	POL	PHIL.....	
	18-34	35-54	55+	No	Yes	Evglcl	Lib	Mod	Con
Approve	58%	56%	59%	53%	62%	47%	68%	69%	40%
Disapprove	24	33	28	32	25	37	19	20	45
DK/NA	18	11	13	15	13	16	13	12	15

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Jim Webb is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Approve	50%	37%	67%	48%	51%	49%	48%	61%	
Disapprove	31	44	15	34	36	28	34	19	
DK/NA	18	19	18	18	13	23	17	19	
	AGE IN	YRS.....		COLL	DEGREE	WtBnAgn	POL	PHIL.....	
	18-34	35-54	55+	No	Yes	Evglcl	Lib	Mod	Con
Approve	56%	48%	49%	47%	54%	38%	62%	57%	38%
Disapprove	21	35	35	34	28	43	22	25	44
DK/NA	23	17	16	19	17	19	16	18	18

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Approve	48%	9%	92%	41%	42%	54%	36%	88%	
Disapprove	48	88	5	54	54	41	59	9	
DK/NA	4	3	3	5	4	5	4	4	
	AGE IN	YRS.....		COLL	DEGREE	WtBnAgn	POL	PHIL.....	
	18-34	35-54	55+	No	Yes	Evglcl	Lib	Mod	Con
Approve	61%	47%	43%	46%	52%	22%	80%	55%	23%
Disapprove	37	49	53	51	43	75	17	41	73
DK/NA	2	4	4	4	5	4	3	4	3

9. Looking ahead to the 2012 election for President...

If the 2012 election for President were being held today, do you think you would vote for Barack Obama the Democratic candidate, or for the Republican candidate?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Obama	43%	4%	92%	35%	38%	48%	31%	85%	
Republican	41	86	3	41	46	36	51	3	
DEPENDS ON CAND(VOL)	10	7	2	17	10	10	11	6	
DK/NA	6	3	2	7	6	6	6	6	
	AGE IN	YRS.....		COLL	DEGREE	WtBnAgn	POL	PHIL.....	
	18-34	35-54	55+	No	Yes	Evglcl	Lib	Mod	Con
Obama	56%	42%	37%	40%	48%	15%	83%	48%	17%
Republican	30	45	45	43	37	65	8	34	68
DEPENDS ON CAND(VOL)	9	8	11	10	11	13	5	12	10
DK/NA	5	4	7	7	5	6	4	6	4

10. Do you feel that Barack Obama deserves to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Yes/Deserves	47%	9%	91%	39%	41%	53%	35%	88%	
No/Does not	47	87	5	53	53	41	58	7	
DK/NA	6	4	4	8	6	6	7	5	
	AGE IN	YRS.....		COLL	DEGREE	WtBnAgn	POL	PHIL.....	
	18-34	35-54	55+	No	Yes	Evglcl	Lib	Mod	Con
Yes/Deserves	60%	45%	41%	44%	51%	19%	85%	53%	21%
No/Does not	34	49	53	50	43	74	13	39	76
DK/NA	6	6	6	6	7	6	3	9	4

11. Regardless of how you feel about Barack Obama's policies, would you say you like or don't like Barack Obama as a person?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Like	74%	56%	94%	76%	73%	75%	71%	90%	
Don't Like	14	28	1	12	16	12	16	3	
DK/NA	12	16	5	13	11	13	13	7	
	AGE IN	YRS.....		COLL	DEGREE	WtBnAgn	POL	PHIL.....	
	18-34	35-54	55+	No	Yes	Evglcl	Lib	Mod	Con
Like	85%	76%	67%	73%	77%	63%	88%	83%	58%
Don't Like	7	12	19	15	11	22	5	9	24
DK/NA	8	12	14	12	12	15	7	8	18

12. And regardless of how you feel about Barack Obama as a person, would you say you like or don't like most of Barack Obama's policies?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Like	47%	9%	90%	39%	41%	53%	36%	83%	
Don't Like	48	87	5	54	54	41	59	11	
DK/NA	6	4	5	6	5	6	5	6	
	AGE IN	YRS.....		COLL	DEGREE	WtBnAgn	POL	PHIL.....	
	18-34	35-54	55+	No	Yes	Evglcl	Lib	Mod	Con
Like	62%	46%	39%	44%	52%	19%	82%	53%	21%
Don't Like	34	49	55	50	44	74	14	41	75
DK/NA	3	4	6	6	4	7	4	6	4

27. Do you think the U.S. is doing the right thing by fighting the war in Afghanistan now, or should the U.S. not be involved in Afghanistan now?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Right thing	38%	54%	29%	34%	43%	33%	42%	28%	
Shld not be involved	55	42	64	57	52	59	53	63	
DK/NA	7	4	7	9	5	8	6	8	
	AGE IN	YRS.....		COLL	DEGREE	WtBnAgn	POL	PHIL.....	
	18-34	35-54	55+	No	Yes	Evglcl	Lib	Mod	Con
Right thing	32%	46%	33%	37%	40%	45%	28%	37%	45%
Shld not be involved	60	49	59	57	52	50	67	55	49
DK/NA	8	4	7	6	7	4	6	8	6

Military  
HsHlds

Right thing	42%
Shld not be involved	50
DK/NA	8

28. Do you think the U.S. is doing the right thing by using military force in Libya now, or should the U.S. not be involved in Libya now?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Right thing	31%	30%	38%	29%	35%	28%	31%	33%
Shld not be involved	60	63	51	65	59	61	61	56
DK/NA	9	7	11	6	6	11	7	11

	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-54	55+	COLL No	DEGREE Yes	WtBnAgn Evglcl	POL Lib	PHIL..... Mod	Con
Right thing	34%	32%	28%	31%	32%	31%	37%	33%	26%
Shld not be involved	53	64	62	61	59	62	53	58	68
DK/NA	13	4	10	9	8	7	11	9	6

Military  
Hshlds

Right thing	32%
Shld not be involved	61
DK/NA	7

29. Do you think Congress should try to repeal the new health care law, or should they let it stand?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Repeal it	49%	81%	16%	53%	54%	44%	56%	25%
Let it stand	42	9	76	39	39	44	36	65
DK/NA	9	10	9	8	6	12	8	10

	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-54	55+	COLL No	DEGREE Yes	WtBnAgn Evglcl	POL Lib	PHIL..... Mod	Con
Repeal it	41%	55%	50%	52%	44%	70%	19%	43%	73%
Let it stand	52	38	39	37	49	21	75	48	17
DK/NA	8	7	11	10	7	9	6	9	10